





Mr. DUNCAN McNEILL, editor of the *Wadesboro' Argus*, arrived in this city yesterday and honored us with a visit last evening.

From him we learn that the Conservatives of his county and district are alive to the issues of the campaign and, at a recent meeting, had put forth Major Wm. E. Smith for the House and Gen. A. J. Dargan for the Senatorial District composed of Anson and Union counties. It is a strong ticket and will meet with the undivided support of the true men of that region.

Mr. McNeill also states that the crops in his neighborhood are very promising, the wheat, in especial, being about the finest that has ever been known in that part of the State. The cotton has been very slightly injured by the late cool nights, but will be brought out fully by a few warm days. The fruit crop will also prove an abundant one.

Fifth Congressional District.

The Conservative Convention for the Fifth Congressional District, which nominated the Hon. JAMES M. LEACH, of Davidson county, for Congress, was very large and its deliberations most harmonious. The following platform was adopted:

- Resolved, 1. That the platform of principles laid down in the address of the Conservative members of the General Assembly of the 20th March last, is endorsed by and meets the hearty approval of this Convention.
2. That the civil and political equality of the white and colored races is an accomplished fact, which the Conservative party has no inclination to disturb.
3. That the conservatives of this District are a law-abiding and peaceably disposed people, opposed to lawlessness and lawlessness, and who, by whomsoever committed, and that the proclamation of the Governor of the State, denouncing the county of Alamance in a state of insurrection, and that the civil law cannot be enforced therein, is a foul slander and libel, and that the Conservative party has no intention to betray a people whom it has its duty to protect and defend.

4. That Joseph C. Abbott and John Pool, by their speeches recently delivered in the United States Senate, have added their names to the list of official slanderers who, to make political capital and insure their own preferment do not hesitate to asperse the fair name and fame of the good people of North Carolina.

5. That the extraneous and corrupting influence of the State government for the last two years is without precedent in the history of free government, and that it behooves the people of the State, regardless of differences of opinion as to past issues, now join together to root from the hands of those who have abused their power the power to do further wrong, and to place the management of our affairs in the hands of honest and intelligent citizens, who have the interest and the honor of the people at heart.

Lawlessness and Its Causes.

The murder of ex-Senator Stephens, of Caswell county, the particulars of which we have already published, is another repetition of one of those bold and heinous offenses against the law which have too frequently occurred in our State, and which have done much to injure the good name of North Carolina. As has been our custom, we have refrained from making any hasty and passionate comments upon the matter. We have contented ourselves with giving the particulars, and in denouncing the diabolical deed. Even yet the authors of the outrage are unknown. So far as we are advised, suspicion does not point to any person or persons. Partisan journals, indeed, with a view to manufacture political capital rather than to further the ends of justice, have assumed that he was murdered by the members of a certain secret organization for political purposes, in which bold and bold assertions are made to supply the place of facts, and prejudices are expected to answer for evidence. The Governor has taken more pains to have an *ex parte* telegraphic statement of the affair read in Congress, than to have the perpetrators arrested. Indeed, the political uses to which his party friends are putting the death of the unfortunate man, might well lead us to believe that his murder is a matter for party congratulation. The event is treated in a business point of view altogether, and the sighs over his untimely death are hushed amid the calculations of its advantages.

Those politicians who have sacrificed the prosperity of North Carolina for their own selfish purposes; who have defrauded her people and corrupted her Legislature; who have broken down her credit and crippled her resources; who have stolen her school funds and destroyed her University, can well afford to speculate upon the most heinous offenses against the laws. Lawlessness and crime are merely circumstances to further their wicked purposes. They have no interest in the peace and good order of the State if they can make anything by disorders. Men who have been thrown into power and wealth by political and civil commotions fear a return to peace and an observance of law. The "old order of things" is fraught with danger and death to their pretensions. The prejudices and passions of the ignorant must be kept actively aroused, or unworthy men will surely be driven from authority. Begot of, and nurtured by, ignorance and crime, the Radical party must be sustained in the sins from which it sprang, or its death is decreed.

But the law-abiding and property-owning citizens of the State, whose social well-being and material welfare are bound up in North Carolina, cannot afford to bargain and sell such transactions as the murder of Stephens for any temporary political advantages. As much as they may desire the defeat of the Radical party, and as much as they desire the prosperity and social happiness are involved in the result, the observance of laws and the punishment for crimes are vastly more important. Political victory would be more than useless if obtained by a sacrifice of the security of person and property. Such persons should and must discover and have punished the authors of this startling murder, while they investigate the causes and apply the remedy.

Why is it that we are so

ed with the recital of rapes and murders and arson, which are without parallel in the history of North Carolina previous to the accession to power of the present State Government? In all countries and in all periods such crimes have been committed, but ordinarily they have resulted from passion or motives of plunder. But such murders as those of Colonel Nethercutt, the Foscoe family, Sheriff Colgrove and Mr. Stephens, as well as the frequent burning of dwellings and barns, were certainly unknown in this State previous to the reconstruction acts and the appointment and election to office of bad men to carry them into operation. Here, then, we have the solution. These crimes result from the existence of a bad government. They arise from a want of confidence in their officials by good men, and from a supposed or real security by the bad and ignorant. When men known to be corrupt are elected and appointed to important executive, judicial and legislative offices; when convicted thieves make laws, and convicted forgers execute them, it is wonderful that crimes are not more frequent and appalling.

The ballot-box is the surest cure for these evils and it is a matter for congratulation that our people have the opportunity to apply the remedy so soon. If we condemn the administration of Governor Holden, and guard against many of its more dangerous effects, by electing an honest and efficient Legislature, and condemn the party by defeating its candidate for Attorney General, much will be done to insure a renewal of the old respect for, and observance of, the law. Peace and good order and prosperity will follow a return to efficiency, economy and honesty in our State government. Let us try it.

Criminal Echoes of Bad Government.

Following in quick succession upon the diabolical assassination of ex-Senator Stephens, we have to record the startling murder of the McLeod family in Cumberland county. We are enabled to day, through an intelligent correspondent, not only to confirm the report published yesterday, but to furnish many interesting and reliable particulars of the bloody deed. We have seldom been called upon to record the account of a more horrible murder and robbery.

The victims of this fiendish tragedy were excellent men—plain, upright, useful citizens—living under their own vine and fig tree, and beloved by their neighbors. The McLeod family has long been noted for respectability and character, and some of the branches have settled in Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas, and number among their descendants some of the most distinguished and respected citizens of those States. Mr. McSweeney, editor of the *Fayetteville Eagle*, and Kenneth McLeod, of Bladen county, formerly for many years Clerk of the Court of that county, are nearly related to the victims of this last and most heinous murder.

We learn that the Sheriff and other authorities of Cumberland seem to be very slow to make any move to capture the murderers.

In connection with this terrible affair we also publish a letter from a responsible citizen of Robeson, giving an insight into the condition of affairs in that county. These two letters picture no fancy sketches but are the plain and unvarnished accounts of real transactions—deeds so unnatural and so atrocious as to wear the appearance of fiction. They present a condition of affairs in North Carolina that demands the most anxious and earnest consideration upon the part of good citizens all over the State.

We have said that we believe the crimes which are so frequent now result from the effects of the bad government under which we live, and we are satisfied that we are correct in this belief. The people of North Carolina, good and bad, are fully convinced that every department of their State government, executive, judicial and legislative, is more or less imbecile and corrupt. Good citizens have no confidence in the ability or the disposition of their officials to do their duty impartially and efficiently, and had men seen justified in their belief that the boldest and most inhuman crimes go unpunished.—This state of things, added to the great depression in all industrial pursuits, resulting from the loss of State credit and the heavy burden of taxation, is calculated to create disturbance and commotion, and to engender a disregard and violation of law. The political aspect is the least of the evils which curse North Carolina under the infamous government and the more infamous officials now controlling State affairs, and unless checked by the united efforts of good men at the ballot-box it will go from bad to worse, until the government becomes a miserable farce, and the wildest and most dangerous anarchy ensues.

What man can calmly review the history of the State for the past two years, and observe how rapidly every moral, social, civil and political attribute of our people has degenerated under Governor Holden's administration, and through causes for which it is directly responsible, and conscientiously vote to endorse it. Such an unwise and unwise course would be the welfare of the State at heart, or care for its honor and prosperity. The reasons for defeating Governor Holden and his party are so far above the ordinary purposes of a political victory that we wonder how men who value peace and quiet and their own characters can deliberately vote to sustain them.

We must defeat this administration; we must drive bad men from power; we must restore confidence in our officials; we must renew the old respect for law or there is no honorable or prosperous future for North Carolina. Crimes will continue and increase, State credit will never be restored, taxes will never be decreased, the public debt will never be paid, railroads will never be completed, public schools will never be put into operation, the University will never revive, business will not prosper, the people will never be quiet and happy until we control and eradicate the active agents of these evils. Let the people speak in August.

Thunder Against the Income Tax.

The New York *Journal of Commerce* is showing what motives are at work to secure a prolongation of the odious income tax. Thoughtful, sensible men condemn it, whether they are rich or poor, and, says that paper, they would probably create a sufficient public opinion to secure its discontinuance but for the secret purposes of the party in power, who find it an excellent auxiliary in their schemes for keeping men of means and intelligence more or less in their grasp. Some Democrats wish the time extended for the same reason, looking forward to their own resumption of power, and eager to clutch at the hold it would give them upon the class it most affects. It may be that the exposure of this motive may defeat the attempt to renew the tax, but we shall be disappointed if it does. The party in power will make the tax still more one-sided to silence all popular clamor, and they will care nothing about the Constitutional restrictions, as they have already by law prohibited the courts from interfering with the collection of this or any other tax. All that can be done, if the tax is revived, will be to prevent under protest and suits for its recovery. This may not be generally adopted, but the *Journal* thinks enough suits will be brought to convince the governing party that they have mistaken the extent of their power over the rights of the people.

The Ku-Klux.

The Raleigh *Standard*, of a recent date, to keep up the excitement over ex-Senator Stephens, and to leave the impression that it was the work of political foes, publishes several columns purporting to be the sworn testimony of one Daniel A. Graham, of Moore county, which it says has been on file for several weeks in the Executive Office, divulging the names of several gentlemen living in that county, who are members of one or the other of nine Councils of Ku-Klux in existence in Moore. We regret to see that several Conservative papers have published extracts from this testimony before inquiring into the character of the witness. If his statement is true every man concerned in the crimes of which he gives an account should be arrested and severely punished. And if Governor Holden had any reason to believe the evidence he should be impeached for not acting upon it instead of keeping it for weeks and then publishing it to the world for political purposes, thus giving the unsuspecting or guilty parties the opportunity to escape. But Governor Holden, we presume, knew very well that the whole statement was false, and the character of his witness was very bad, so he used it for political capital, thus endorsing the falsehood.

We are reliably informed that this man, Daniel A. Graham, is an outlaw, being a fugitive from justice, and under indictment for horse-stealing. A letter in our possession from a leading citizen of Fayetteville, detailing the particulars of the McLeod murder, its publication in full being unnecessary, as the facts had already been anticipated by another correspondent from that place, says: "We think we know the leading spirit in the transaction, but for prudential reasons will not give the name just now. I will, however, say that he is, in crime, an accomplice of Graham, who furnished the Ku-Klux information to Holden."

When we saw the acknowledgment that testimony, which implicated so many well-known citizens in the worst of crimes, had been in the possession of the Governor for weeks, and no effort had been made to arrest the parties, that it was unworthy of belief, and the political uses to which it had been put we knew was characteristic of our Governor. The haste with which he had Senator Nye to have read the sensational telegraphic report of the murder of Stephens in the Senate, and when "Mr. Nye also read a telegram from Governor Holden, of North Carolina, setting forth that a colored Representative had been driven from the county," which was false, and which the Governor has not taken the trouble to correct, convinced us that Governor Holden intended to use the whole affair for party purposes. Alas! we fear that our Governor will sacrifice the people of North Carolina—yes, he seems to take pleasure in the atonement—to promote the interests of party, to lead which and to secure its support, he has sacrificed so much in self respect and personal honor.

We call upon the Governor to prosecute the man whom Graham implicates in crime. The murder of the McLeods in that very section of the State should be an incentive for his prompt action. The Judge and Solicitor of that judicial district are his party and personal friends. He has no excuse for delay, but many urgent reasons for vigorous action. An example should be made—crimes must be punished. The condition of the public peace demands action. Let the Governor act upon the testimony he has in his possession, which he has published as worthy of belief. In the name of the people of North Carolina, we call upon him to do something in the interest of peace and law. In this important crisis in our State we beseech him to forget his secret obligations to the Loyal League, and remember his duty to the people and his sacred oaths of office.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE BY LEAGUERS.

The Robeson county desperadoes are still at work. Information has reached here that on the 26th inst., in Moore county, near the Cumberland line, an old and highly esteemed citizen, Capt. Daniel McLeod, was killed outright, and his wife and his brother, Mr. John McLeod, very dangerously wounded. As soon as the fact became known a party started in pursuit of the murderers and traced them to within the neighborhood of Seafletown, in Robeson county, but, at last accounts, none of them had been secured. It is very reasonably presumed that these are a part of the Robeson county gang and are the same parties who lately stole the horses in the neighborhood of Shoe Heel, but which were afterwards recovered. The object of the murder of Mr. McLeod was probably money, as it was known that he had recently sold a piece of land and had received the money. This, however, had been deposited in Fayetteville. The murder was a most inhuman one, no resistance, it is said, having been made by Mr. McLeod or his brother.

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Dear Journal—The editor of the *Fayetteville Eagle* was badly mistaken in saying that things were quiet in Robeson—"That anarchy, bloodshed and universal danger and distraction to human life and property, so horribly depicted by the Wilmington papers, never existed." He is very badly mistaken. Would to God he was right, and we were able to join with him in denouncing those "horrible pictures" as merely sensational articles. It is a painful fact that for more than three years the county of Robeson has been infested by an organized band of the most desperate and bloody negro bandits that ever cursed a country. They have gone from one revolting crime to another, encouraged by their exemption from punishment, until they are now inflicting on the people of Robeson the most brutal and damnable outrages known in modern times. Scarcely a week elapses but we are furnished the intelligence of some horrible crime or violence perpetrated in our midst. During the whole period of the past three years, these bloody vultures, with Henry Beery Lowery at their head, have held, without molestation, a high carnival of crime, feasting with indiscriminate vengeance upon the blood of our best citizens. There is indeed a "reign of terror" here; no man's life or property is safe; constant dread and apprehension fill the minds of the people. Carnage and violence are running riot through the land; startling whole neighborhoods, and striking terror into the hearts of our most peaceful and law-abiding citizens. Nor do these negro monsters confine their operations alone to night hours. They conduct them in the day light, in the broad blaze of the midday sun, and with a boldness and impunity that would appal the most abandoned devil on God's green earth. These are indeed evil and alarming outrages, and no longer can we endure it, and a time more terrible and hideous than that which deluged the highways of Greece and Italy, with the blood of thousands of slaughtered victims, seems to threaten us. In view of this great danger, we tell Governor Holden, and the criminal Sheriff of this county, that these monstrous crimes must be exterminated; that these heinous outrages must cease; that the citizens of Robeson must have some security and protection to life and property. These are times when no one can retire to rest with feelings of safety, or repair to his labor without apprehensions. We know not the hour, day or night, that our dwellings will be drenched in blood, or our barns destroyed by fire. Ere we are aware of danger, we are startled by the crack of the murderer's rifle, or appalled by the lurid blaze of the incendiary's torch. Yet, amidst all these scenes of blood and strife, we are told, there is no band of guerrillas, no highway robbers, no violence or murder committed here. But oh! not one half of the terrible crimes perpetrated by those Union Leaguers are given to the press, and many that are given do not tell one half the mischief and crime committed. SIMMONS.

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